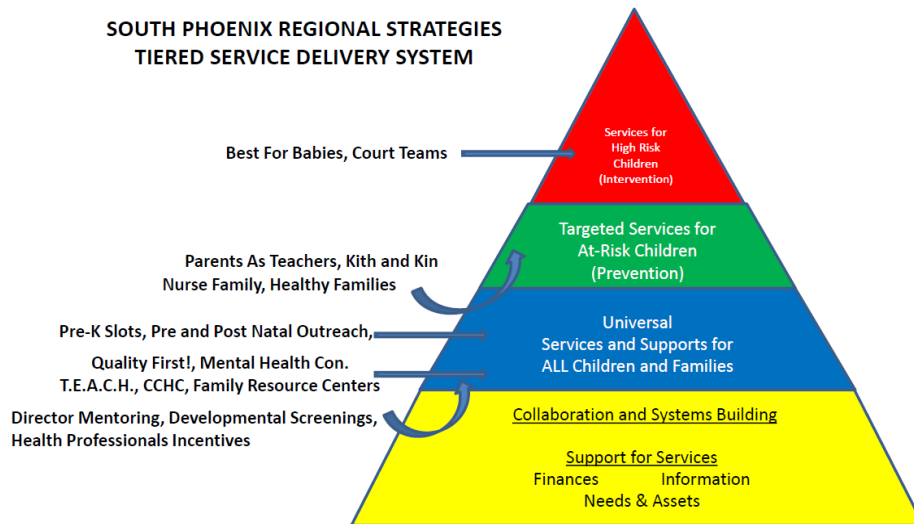




# FIRST THINGS FIRST

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

## South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council Special Populations Committee Recommendations to Regional Council



### Strategy Name: Family Resource Center and Coordination (\$800,000)

**Background:** Committee meeting held on March 7, 2013 and reviewed possible recommendations for next steps, evidenced based programming, and breadth/reach/scope of special populations. Recommendations below reflect over 10 hours of discussion and dialogue on how to best meet the needs of the special populations with limited funding. Information on family support of the region based on data from the *2012 South Phoenix Regional Needs and Assets Report* identifies the following ongoing unmet needs in the region:

- Lack of intensive family support programs and services for families and children in crisis
- Lack of access to parent education, information, and support
- Limited number of effective, comprehensive family support programs (strength-based) including home-visiting programs
- Limited understanding and information about the importance of early childhood development and health and limited support by the community around early childhood development and health efforts
- Lack of community capacity, leadership development, community awareness and grassroots awareness of the importance of early care and education movement

### Recommendations:

- Committee recommends that there is an increase in Parent Education and Community Based training being provided by the family resource centers. Family resource centers could conduct the following:
  1. Provide Playspaces, Play and Learn, or an evidenced based interactive play based training for parent and their children to the transitional shelters (on site) serving families from the South Phoenix region. Target population would be families who are homeless and come into the Central Phoenix region where transitional shelters are available. The committee also has recommended that applicants demonstrate how families would be connected back the family resource centers in the region as they transition. The committee recognizes the lack of regional capacity or shelters serving homeless families in the region. The committee is recommending that there is NOT an increase in strategies but a layering and integration of current strategies, therefore it is the expectation that the RFGA release for the additional component would be open to current Family Resource Centers and would not be an additional strategy. Committee is recommending **\$150,000** in year one (1) and **\$100,000** in year two (2) and is strongly encouraging that possible applicants provide matching funding and a plan for sustainability.
  2. Provide increased parent education and skill building with emphasis on the importance of early education. A special emphasis is being recommended to concentrate training to those parents who have been incarcerated and who do not have an active CPS case. Furthermore, the committee is recommending these efforts target father/male involvement as a special population. Committee is recommending **\$75,000** in year one (1) and **\$75,000** in year two (2) and is strongly encouraging that possible applicants provide matching funding and a plan for sustainability.
- Provide funding to support service coordination for kinship care providers who are raising children of incarcerated parents. Children may or may not be have permanent placement, the committee recognized the complexity of serving children of incarcerated parents and has determined the most need among kinship care providers who may not be part of the formal system. The expectation is that potential applicants would help kinship care families with children ages 0-5 with identifying early education resources which is not limited to preschool, child care, health services, parent education classes, other specific needs related to small children in the home. The committee is also recommending that potential applicants identify current stakeholders that include Grand Families Place, City of Phoenix, African American Christian Clergy Coalition, Casey Family Programs, First Things First Family Resource Centers, First Things First Care Coordination grantees, and other possible partners. The recommended funding amount is **\$200,000** in year one (1) and two (2), and is strongly encouraging that possible applicants provide matching funding and a plan for sustainability.